

SECRETS OF CUSTOM WORK

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MARIO BUATTA

If you've found something that's very old and rare, they can reproduce it exactly," designer Mario Buatta (right) says about the New York decorative hardware dealer and manufacturer E. R. Butler & Co. "They do such special things that it feels more like an art."

Owner Rhett Butler emphasizes Colonial, Federal and Georgian doorknobs—many in hand-cut crystal (below)—doorstops, handles, window fittings and more. "We have over fifteen thousand original drawings, some going back to the seventeenth century, and we adapt them into different sizes or into different products that may not have existed in the past but that are used today."

Butler also represents Eu-



ropean manufacturers of such pieces as a Venetian patinated-bronze knocker (above), made by the same family for centuries. "A few people in England and France do this," Buatta says. "But in the United States, they're tops."

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